

North-West (Rice Lake) *Build Wisconsin* Regional Workshop Small Group Record

Small Group _____ Uno Green _____ (color)

Facilitator _____ Daniel Brown _____

Top 10 responses to the question: “What can the State do to foster economic growth in your region?”

Priority response #1 (votes: __6__)

Allow and encourage cooperation with Minnesota agencies and the private sector

Priority response #2 (votes: __6__)

Provide direct state assistance for affordable housing

Priority response #3 (votes: __5__)

Expand role of tech schools and universities to attract & retain business and industry

Priority response #4 (votes: __5__)

Staff satellite offices (part-time) in NW WI with state agency representatives

Priority response #5 (votes: __3__)

Extend access to wireless technology, high-speed internet infrastructure and cell towers

Priority response #6 (votes: __3__)

Expand state-delivered administrative services in satellite office e.g. revenue center,
pension call center

Priority response #7 (votes: __3__)

Make WI competitive with other states in terms of personal income taxes to attract &
retain mid-to upper managers

“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #1], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

Priority Issue #1 Allow and encourage cooperation with Minnesota agencies and the private sector

- Develop interstate services related to job services and training
- Encourage continuing reciprocity agreements of all kinds
- Combined Duluth/Superior Port Authority
- Standardize and/or coordinate curriculums and research between the Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin university systems
- Support interstate trade associations and industry groups
- Consider the State of Wisconsin becoming a stakeholder in the Natural Resources Research Institute in Duluth and similar research facilities

Priority Issue #2 Provide state assistance to help communities to develop affordable housing for low to middle income families

- Develop training programs that focus on “best practices” to assist local agencies in learning about what other communities have done to foster housing development in a community
- State guidelines may have to be modified to accommodate very different economies of different communities
- Clarify or create an ability to use TIF districts to develop infrastructure for home site development for low to moderate housing developments